

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An absorbent article comprising:

5 a main body having a first main body waist portion, a second main body waist portion and a central main body portion disposed between the first and second main body waist portions, the main body having orthogonal vertical and lateral axes;

10 a pair of side panels, each side panel connecting the first main body waist portion to the second main body waist portion, the first main body waist portion, the second main body waist portion and the side panels collectively defining a waist opening edge and two leg opening edges, each side panel being formed from a first side portion extending laterally outward from the first main body waist portion and a second side portion extending laterally outward from the second main body waist portion, the first side portion being attached to the second side portion by a side seam intersecting the waist opening edge at a first seam angle relative to the vertical axis and intersecting one of the leg openings at a second seam angle relative to the vertical axis when the first and second side portions are in a fully stretched condition; and

20 an adjustment arrangement including at least one adjustment tab associated with one of the side panels, each of the at least one adjustment tab including the side seam of the associated side panel and extending outward therefrom and having a lateral tab edge, the adjustment arrangement also including at least one adjustment tab fastener adapted for removably attaching the at least one adjustment tab to a receiving portion of the main body.

25 2. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein each of the at least one adjustment tab fastener includes a gripping member.

3. An absorbent article according to claim 2 wherein the receiving portion includes at least one fastener attachment member, the fastener attachment member being adapted for reversible mating engagement with the gripping member.

4. An absorbent article according to claim 2 wherein the gripping member is disposed on the adjustment tab, the gripping member being positioned so that the gripping member can engage the receiving portion of the main body when the garment is arranged in an adjusted configuration on a wearer.

5. An absorbent article according to claim 4 wherein the gripping member is disposed on the side seam of the associated side panel.

6. An absorbent article according to claim 2 wherein each of the at least one adjustment tab fastener includes a fastening strip extending laterally outward from the lateral tab edge, the gripping member being disposed on the fastening strip, the fastening strip and the gripping member being adapted so that the gripping member can engage the receiving portion of the main body when the garment is arranged in an adjusted configuration on a wearer.

7. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the fastening arrangement includes a first adjustment tab fastener including a first gripping member disposed on the adjustment tab, the first gripping member being positioned so that the first gripping member can engage the receiving portion of the main body when the garment is arranged in a first adjusted configuration on a wearer, and a second adjustment tab fastener including a second gripping member disposed on the adjustment tab, the second gripping member being positioned so that the second gripping member can engage the receiving portion of the main body when the garment is arranged in a second adjusted configuration on a wearer.

8. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the fastening arrangement includes a first adjustment tab fastener including a first fastening strip extending

laterally outward from the lateral tab edge and a first gripping member disposed on the first fastening strip, the first fastening strip and the first gripping member being adapted so that the first gripping member can engage the receiving portion of the main body when the garment is arranged in a first adjusted configuration on a wearer, and a
5 second adjustment tab fastener including a second fastening strip extending laterally outward from the lateral tab edge and a second gripping member disposed on the second fastening strip, the second fastening strip and the second gripping member being adapted so that the second gripping member can engage the receiving portion of the main body when the garment is arranged in a second adjusted configuration on a
10 wearer.

9. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein each of the at least one adjustment tab is formed at least in part from the first and second side portions of the associated side panel.

10. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second side seam angles is in a range from about 10 degrees to about 80 degrees.
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11. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the first side seam angle is in a range from about 10 degrees to about 80 degrees.

12. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the first side seam angle is in a range from about 10 degrees to about 50 degrees.

13. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the first side seam angle is in a range from about 25 degrees to about 35 degrees.
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14. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the second side seam angle is in a range from about 10 degrees to about 80 degrees.

15. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the second side seam angle is in a range from about 25 degrees to about 35 degrees.
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16. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the second side seam angle is in a range from about 25 degrees to about 35 degrees.

17. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the side seam is curved when the first and second side portions are in a fully stretched condition.

5 18. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the side seam adjacent the waist opening edge is curved when the first and second side portions are in a fully stretched condition.

19. An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the side seam adjacent the leg opening edge is curved when the first and second side portions are in a fully stretched condition.

20. An absorbent article comprising:

a main body having a first main body waist portion, a second main body waist portion and a central main body portion disposed between the first and second main body waist portions, the main body having orthogonal vertical and lateral axes;

a pair of side panels, each side panel connecting the first main body waist portion to the second main body waist portion, the first main body waist portion, the second main body waist portion and the side panels collectively defining a waist opening edge and two leg opening edges, each side panel being formed from a first side portion extending laterally outward from the first main body waist portion and a second side portion extending laterally outward from the second main body waist portion, the first side portion being attached to the second side portion by a side seam intersecting the waist opening edge at a first seam angle relative to the vertical axis and intersecting one of the leg openings at a second seam angle relative to the vertical axis when the first and second side portions are in a fully stretched

condition, at least a portion of the side seam being curved when the first and second side portions are in a fully stretched condition; and
an adjustment arrangement including at least one adjustment tab associated with one of the side panels, each of the at least one adjustment tab including the side seam of the associated side panel and extending outward therefrom and having a lateral tab edge, the adjustment arrangement also including at least one adjustment tab fastener adapted for removably attaching the at least one adjustment tab to a receiving portion of the main body.

21. An absorbent article according to claim 20 wherein each of the at least one adjustment tab fastener includes a gripping member and wherein the receiving portion includes at least one fastener attachment member, the fastener attachment member being adapted for reversible mating engagement with the gripping member.

22. An absorbent article according to claim 20 wherein each of the at least one adjustment tab fastener includes a fastening strip extending laterally outward from the lateral tab edge, a gripping member being disposed on the fastening strip, the fastening strip and the gripping member being adapted so that the gripping member can engage the receiving portion of the main body when the garment is arranged in an adjusted configuration on a wearer.

23. An absorbent article according to claim 20 wherein each of the at least one adjustment tab is formed at least in part from the first and second side portions of the associated side panel.

24. An absorbent article according to claim 20 wherein at least one of the first and second side seam angles is in a range from about 10 degrees to about 80 degrees.

25. An absorbent article according to claim 20 wherein at least one of the first and second side seam angles is in a range from about 10 degrees to about 50 degrees.

26. An absorbent article according to claim 20 wherein at least one of the first and second side seam angles is in a range from about 25 degrees to about 35 degrees.

27. An absorbent article according to claim 20 wherein at least a portion of the side seam adjacent the waist opening edge is curved.

5 28. An absorbent article according to claim 20 wherein at least a portion of the side seam adjacent the leg opening edge is curved.

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